

## Introducing Dick's 2COATS or A "Litmus Test" of a Bidding System

By Dick Yuen

Consider this extreme example:

♠ -- ♥ -- ♦ AK ♣ QJ1098765432

You have a rock-solid 5♣ contract. Does your bidding system allow you to find out partner's exact club holding?

- If partner has the ♣A then 7♣ is cold (assuming no diamond ruff on opening lead)
- If partner has the ♣K then 6♣ is cold
- If partner has neither, 5♣ is cold and 6♣ is possible if the clubs split 1-1 (I dare you to build a system to solve that!)

For example, the bidding might begin 2♣ - 2♥ (no Ace or King). You can settle on 5♣, money in the bank. If you are a gambler, you might try 6♣ (1-1 distribution is 52%).

The test comes when partner responds 2♦ showing at least one King. How can you identify the location of partner's honour(s)?

Introducing Dick's 2COATS (2♣ opening and treatments), or simply Dick's 2♣. The key feature of Dick's 2♣ can be summarized as follows:

After a 2♣ opening and an initial 2♦ or 2♥ response, opener names the P-suit. "P" stands for Primary, which corresponds to a **real** suit of 5+ length. "P" also stands for Phantom, which only happens in two cases:

2♣ - 2♦ or 2♣ - 2♥  
2♥ 2♠

The sole purpose of a Phantom suit is to allow room for responder to bid out any honour(s). Responder bids his honour(s) up the line, or cheapest NT to deny any more honours. A Jack is **not** considered an honour for this purpose.

Take these sample hands for responder:

- (1) ♠ 65432 ♥ 65432 ♦ 432 ♣ --
- (2) ♠ 65432 ♥ 65432 ♦ 32 ♣ K
- (3) ♠ 65432 ♥ 65432 ♦ 32 ♣ A
- (4) ♠ K5432 ♥ 65432 ♦ 32 ♣ K

Auction (1)

2♣	2♥	no A or K
2♠	2NT	2♠ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 2NT denies any Queen
5♣		To play

Auction (2)

2♣	2♦	at least one K
2♥	3♣	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 3♣ promises ♣A or ♣K and denies any spade honour
4NT	5♣	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♣ confirms zero
6♣		To play

Auction (3)

2♣	2♦	at least one K
2♥	3♣	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 3♣ promises ♣A or ♣K and denies any spade honour
4NT	5♦	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♦ confirms one
7♣		To play

Auction (4)

2♣	2♦	at least one K
2♥	2♠	2♥ is P-suit, phantom in this case; 2♠ promises ♠A or ♠K
2NT	3♣	2NT is sliding ask, tell me more; 3♣ indicates ♣ honour (A/K/Q), but you know it is the A or K
4NT	5♣	4NT asks number of Aces; 5♣ confirms zero
6♣		To play

Let's conclude with a real-life example taken from a quarter-final match in the 2016 Vanderbilt.

Here are the two hands :

♠ AK3	N ■ S	♠ Q865
♥ AKQJ		♥ 965
♦ AKJ4		♦ Q5
♣ AK		♣ 9653

One possible big-club auction is:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5NT	Pass	??	

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## Introducing Dick's 2COATS (continued)

How can the strong hand find out about the two key Queens needed for the cold grand slam? It is a challenge for any bidding system to accomplish the task of reaching this ice-cold grand slam with 100% certainty.

One possible auction is:

2♣ 2♥ 2♣ strong; 2♥ denies A or K  
 4NT 5♥ 4NT must ask for Queens; 5♥ shows two  
 ??

Now 6NT is almost certain, but the location of the Queens is still unknown. On a bad day partner has the ♠Q and doubleton ♣Q. Even 6NT will fail if the ♦Q is offside.

Dick's 2COATS comes out with flying colours!

2♣ 2♥ 2♣ strong; 2♥ denies A or K  
 2♠ 3♦ 2♠ is phantom suit; 3♦ shows ♦Q and denies ♣Q  
 3♥ 3♠ 3♥ sliding bid; 3♠ shows ♠Q  
 7NT Bingo! No more information required

The full description of Dick's 2COATS is too long for this article. If you are interested in more information or have any feedback please email me at [yuendt@gmail.com](mailto:yuendt@gmail.com).



## 2016 District 18 Masterpoint Races

Final Standings

Unit 390 players were winners in four of the 13 masterpoint categories and placed in the top three in other categories. That is a very solid performance, considering that there are some 26 units in our District. In categories not shown below, the top three positions were captured by players from outside Unit 390. Congratulations to the following:

<b>0 to 5</b>	2	Thomas Trafford	Calgary AB	41
	3	Danuta Trafford	Calgary AB	39
<b>5 to 20</b>	2	Katie Trafford	Calgary AB	69
<b>20 to 50</b>	1	Raymond Dickinson	Calgary AB	77
<b>50 to 100</b>	1	Brent Muir	Calgary AB	116
<b>100 to 200</b>	3	Shelley Mardiros	Banff AB	170
<b>200 to 300</b>	1	Richard Bickley	Calgary AB	151
<b>300 to 500</b>	2	Michael Shuster	Banff AB	170
<b>500 to 1000</b>	3	Dorothy Mersereau	Calgary AB	212
	2	Dave Adelman	Calgary AB	269
<b>1000 to 1500</b>	3	Helen Dillen	Calgary AB	247
	2	Jim Berglund	Calgary AB	276
<b>3500 to 5000</b>	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	488
<b>5000 to 7500</b>	2	Abdul Fakh	Calgary AB	488
<b>7500 to 10,000</b>	3	Steven Lawrence	Calgary AB	510
<b>Over 10,000</b>	1	Nicholas Gartaganis	Calgary AB	423



Be sure to mark your calendar with the new dates for the Calgary Winter sectional!

New dates: October 27 - 29, 2017  
 Same location: Clarion Hotel and Suites